Action plan for speedy disposal of cases

61. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has worked out an action plan for speedy disposal of court cases to wipe out the arrears;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of pending court cases and whether the major cause of accumulation of arrears is lack of funds provided by Government to judiciary; and

(d) if so, the Government's action plan to address this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A comprehensive programme has been drawn up by the Government in consultation with Chief Justice of India for modernization of the Judicial infrastructure with application of information technology and review of judicial manpower at all levels.

(c) and (d) As on 1st January, 2005, 30,151 cases in Supreme Court, 33,79,033 cases in High Courts and 2,33,98,070 cases are pending in Subordinate Courts. Pendency of cases in various layers of Judiciary is due to several complexd factors. In order to reduce pendency of cases Government has initiated a number of measures which include, timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration, and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts and Labour Courts. Further it has been decided to focus on reforms in a few core areas which include computerization of judiciary, disposal through fast track courts, development of physical infrastructure, and evolution of strategies to cope with massive governance related inadequacies in Indian judiciary through studies, pilots and reform projects. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts

for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 for clearing huge pendency of cases at District level.

Fast Track Courts

62. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Fast Track Courts in the country State-wise;

(b) the number of cases taken over by FTCs since their inception;

(c) the number of cases disposed of by FTCs, state-wise;

(d) the allocation made by the 11th Finance Commission to the FTCs;

(e) whether it is a fact that the 12th Finance Commission has not allocated any money for running FTCs;

(f) if so, whether his Ministry has requested the 12th Finance Commission for allocating money and for extension of FTCs by a further period of five years; and

(g) if so, the response from 12th Finance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A statement showing the state-wise details of Fact Track Courts in the country is placed at Statement-I.

(b) More than 15.28 lakh cases have been transferred to Fast Track Courts since their inception.

(c) A statement showing the state-wise disposal of cases by the Fast Track Courts is placed at Statement-II.

(d) The 11th Finance Commission allocated Rs. 502.90 crore to the FTCs.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The Department of Justice had requested the 12th Finance Commission for allocation of money and for extension of FTCs for a further period of five years but it did not make any recommendation in this regard.